



M E D I A R E L E A S E

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INSURANCE

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TDCI LAUNCHES SECOND PHASE OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE DATABASE

Nashville, TN.- The Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance, Board of Pharmacy, announced today the statewide launch of the Controlled Substance Database's Prescription Monitoring Portal (PMP), the database tool that will provide authorized health care professionals virtually instantaneous access to the controlled substance usage patterns of Tennessee patients.

In accordance with state law, the Department of Commerce and Insurance has established a program that will monitor and assist in research and statistical analysis to track controlled substance utilization patterns across the state. Such research will identify patients who may be abusers of controlled substances so that appropriate treatment can be provided and will also identify prescribing and dispensing patterns of certain health care professionals.

"Health care professionals can now identify and make treatment options available to patients who may have a controlled substance abuse problem," said Commissioner Leslie A. Newman. "Such information will allow health professionals to make more informed treatment decisions that will benefit the patient and the general health care industry."

The registration of authorized pharmacists will be phased in by county starting with Middle Tennessee, followed by West Tennessee and East Tennessee over the next 4-6 weeks. At that time, other authorized health care professionals will be provided access. Requests for information and the retrieval of information can be made via electronic access through the Controlled Substance portal. If an authorized health care professional does not have access to the internet, then an alternative means via facsimile can be provided.

The prescribing and dispensing patterns of health care professionals will also be monitored by their respective regulatory entity. Such data will allow the agencies to educate licensees about proper prescribing and dispensing practices.

State law makes it a Class A misdemeanor for any person who attempts to obtain or obtains information from the database by engaging in fraud or misrepresentation. TCA 53-10-306(f) also establishes a Class A misdemeanor for knowingly using or distributing database information any purpose other than those specifically outlined in the statute.

Tennessee is the 18th state to launch a major controlled substance database program. For more information, please visit www.state.tn.us/boards/pharmacy or email controlled.substancedatabase@state.tn.us.

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